

TRANSPORTATION/HOUSING

STAFF CONTACT: JOSEPH ALSTON

- Supporting housing affordability in New York by expanding supply, reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens, and empowering developers and landlords with streamlined approvals, modern zoning, and smart incentives to build and maintain safe, high-quality affordable housing for families at scale.
- Reinforcing strong support for the construction industry as it works to deliver affordable housing, while strengthening New York's critical infrastructure with the advancement of commonsense reforms that reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, lower construction costs, and keep projects safe, accountable, and affordable for New Yorkers.
- Support the advancement of projects, policies and initiatives that reduce transportation costs across all sectors by cutting unnecessary regulatory barriers, lowering costs for consumers and businesses, and delivering safe, efficient, and reliable travel through a strong, modern transportation infrastructure.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

STAFF CONTACT: CRYSTAL GRIFFITH

- Expand access to college and career readiness pathways by strengthening early college programs and ensuring inclusive language and funding for Advanced Placement coursework, which continues to demonstrate strong outcomes for low-income students and workforce preparation.
- Restore full funding for NYSBDC as an essential economic infrastructure investment, ensuring small businesses have access to advising, financing support, and recovery resources necessary to compete, scale, and contribute to New York's economic vitality.
- Expand Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) eligibility by supporting legislation that aligns aid availability with program completion timelines, extending TAP awards from four to six years, and from five to seven years for programs requiring additional time.
- Modernize TAP to support graduate education by restoring funding eliminated in 2010 and reinvesting in graduate-level financial aid, particularly in high-demand fields such as STEM, education, and healthcare that are critical to New York's workforce needs.

THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF NEW YORK STATE, INC. is New York State's national award-winning State Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturing Association. We are the leading statewide organization fighting for New York's employers.

With a rich history dating back to 1914, The Council represents over 3,300 businesses from various industries and plays a pivotal role in shaping New York's economic landscape. As a prominent advocate for responsible and sustainable business practices, The Business Council of New York State continues to drive the state's economic prosperity and success.

For more information:

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▶ 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



The voice of business and employers
in New York State for over 100 years.

2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL AND GAMING

STAFF CONTACT: PAUL ZUBER

- Allow for the sale of wine in grocery stores.
- Support tax credit for in-state beer manufacturers.
- Support ABC Law Reform.
- Support lottery modernization by allowing lottery tickets to be purchased online.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

STAFF CONTACT: CHELSEA LEMON

- Oppose legislation to adopt an “abuse of dominant position” standard for state’s antitrust laws.
- Oppose laws that hinder a business’s ability to reasonably provide goods and services to consumers and harm New York’s economic competitiveness.

ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT

STAFF CONTACT: KEN POKALSKY

- Support workable “expanded producer responsibility” legislation for packaging; continue to oppose legislation that focuses on banning materials and imposing costly mandates.
- Support an “all of the above” approach to assuring reliable and affordable electric power; support continued essential use of fossil fuels and renewable fuels; support existing and expanded nuclear generation.
- Amend the CLCPA to reflect significant market and policy impacts on emission reductions and renewable generation and assure economically sound implementation.
- Restore certainty and affordability to the brownfield cleanup program.
- Support streamlining the review and permitting of critical projects; support efforts to update regulations across all agencies.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

STAFF CONTACT: CHELSEA LEMON

- Advocate for policies that promote and support the economic contributions made to the state by the financial services industry and preserve New York’s role as the financial capital of the world.

HEALTH/INSURANCE

STAFF CONTACT: KYLE WALLACH

- Oppose new mandates, taxes, and additional unnecessary penalties that contribute to increasing health care premiums for businesses and individuals.

LABOR

STAFF CONTACT: FRANK KERBEIN

- Oppose increases/expansion of statutory minimum wage and salary levels.
- Oppose significant expansion of short-term disability benefits including dramatic increases in benefit amounts, job reinstatement rights, and health insurance continuation, as well as any expansion of Paid Family Leave benefits bereavement, etc.
- Respond to any expanded workplace protections in reaction to perceived Trump administration changes at OSHA, NLRB, EEOC, etc.
- Oppose restrictions on noncompete and mandatory arbitration provisions in employment agreements.
- Respond to incremental changes to Workers’ Compensation benefits that add to the cost of the system.
- Resist expansion of use of Wage Boards to modify terms and conditions of employment by industry.

LEGAL REFORM

STAFF CONTACT: PAUL ZUBER

- Oppose broad, costly “wrongful death” expansion.

TAXATION

STAFF CONTACT: KEN POKALSKY

- Oppose new or increased taxes on business, especially any “dedication” of business tax revenue to specific spending programs.
- Adopt reforms to make tax implementation more fair, including sales tax treatment of bundled sales, “interest equity” on under and over payments, limits on interest during long adjudication delays, extended period for “PTET” election, among others.
- Adopt new incentives for in-state capital and R&D investments, and investments in green buildings.

TECHNOLOGY

STAFF CONTACT: CHELSEA LEMON

- Advocate for meaningful policies that support New York’s technology ecosystem and innovation economy.
- Adopt reasonable consumer privacy laws that are like those in Colorado, Connecticut, New Jersey, or Virginia, to avoid a patchwork of laws, protect consumers’ data and preserve the state’s economic competitiveness.